

REMARKS

Claims 15-23 are currently pending in the captioned application, claims 1-14 having been canceled.

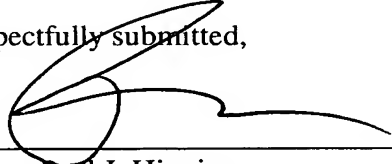
Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Carstens et al. (US 6,582,411). Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carstens. Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carstens in view of Datta et al. (US 4,801,494).

Claims 15-21 were allowed. The Examiner did not address claims 22 and 23 but it is assumed that these claims are also allowed since they are dependent upon claim 21. Without addressing the merits of the Examiner's rejections, and reserving the right to do so in a continuation application, claims 1-14 have been canceled to thereby place the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, entry of the amendments to the claims and allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this paper, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


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Serial No. 10/025,299 Docket No. APC-817 By: PTH
Application of: Collado et al. Mailed: August 19, 2004
Entitled: Expandable Absorbent Article

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